

Nevada State Capitol
The Plaza
Carson City ORMSBY Co.
Nevada

HABS NO. NEV-13-5

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NEVADA STATE CAPITOL

HABS No. NEV-13-5

Location: The Plaza (bounded on the west by Carson St., on the north by Musser St., on the east by Fall St., and on the south by Second St. (which has been blocked off), Carson City, Nevada

Present Owner: The State of Nevada

Present Occupants: Offices of the State of Nevada

Present Use: Executive Office Building for the State of Nevada. The State Legislature now meets in a building to the south of the Capitol, completed in 1969. The former Assembly Chamber, in the north wing, is used as an art gallery, and the Senate Chamber as a museum.

Statement of Significance: This, the first capitol built by the State of Nevada, is a building of monumental character and harmonious proportions. It is of substantial masonry construction with classical details. Later additions have respected the style and details of the original construction

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The "Act to provide for the erection of a State Capitol" was introduced into the Nevada State Assembly on January 20, 1869, was passed, and signed into law by Governor Henry G. Blasdel on February 23, 1869. After securing plans, construction bids were taken and opened on April 14, 1870. The cornerstone was laid on June 9, 1870, and within six months the building was sufficiently complete to house the Fourth Session of the State Legislature. The building was completed by May 1, 1871.
2. Architect: The building was designed by Joseph Gosling of San Francisco. The original drawings are all signed:

Joseph Gosling, Architect
No. 9 Post Street
San Francisco
California
3. Original and subsequent owners: When Carson City was first platted in September, 1858, Abe Curry, the founder of the

town, saw to it that an area equivalent to four city blocks (10 acres) at the center of the town was reserved for the future state capitol. Curry's optimism and vision were aided by his shrewd manipulations, and it came to pass that Carson City was named the Capital City. When the Capitol building was constructed, it was naturally located on "the plaza," which had, some ten or eleven years earlier, been designated for it, and given for that purpose. Mark Twain described the site of the future capitol as it was in 1861: "a large, unfenced, level vacancy, with a liberty pole in it, and very useful as a place for public auctions, horse trades, mass meetings, and likewise for teamsters to camp in."*

*Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), Roughing it (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1959), p. 145.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Once Governor Blasdel signed into law the Act to provide for a Capitol, an architect had to be selected. The Act authorized the State Board of Capitol Commissioners, itself a creation of the Act, to secure an architect for a fee not to exceed \$250.00. Joseph Gosling apparently found the terms acceptable, and drew up elevations, sections, and plans.

Several of his original drawings are preserved in the Nevada State Archives, which currently occupies the Capitol Annex. The drawings are:

- No. 1. Front Elevation
- No. 2. Roof and Basement Plans
- No. 3. First Floor Plan
- No. 4. Second Floor Plan
- (no number) Sections and Plan of Cupola
- (no number) Three Sections
- No. 7. Lavatory

All of the drawings are signed by Gosling. They have been photocopied and are included in the HABS collection.

On April 14, 1870, the Board of Capitol Commissioners opened bids which had been received from six contractors. The bids ranged from a high of \$160,000 to a low of \$84,000. Peter Cavanaugh and Son, of Carson City, submitted the low bid and got the contract. The 1869 Act authorized \$100,000 for the building. Money was to come from a special

tax levy, plus the proceeds from the sale of forty sections of public land. In order to keep costs down, the building stone was furnished by the State, free of charge, to the contractor; having been quarried at the State Prison Quarry just outside Carson City. In spite of this, the construction costs mounted to some \$170,000, exceeding even the high estimate of 1870. The Legislature of 1871, to cover the rising costs, appropriated an additional \$60,000 for construction, plus \$15,000 for furnishings and \$6,000 for contingent costs.

It was agreed that Cavanaugh would receive monthly payments, and that he would have the building ready by January 1871, in time for the Fourth Session of the Legislature to meet there. Assisting Cavanaugh in the work were W.J. Thompson, Foreman Carpenter, Carson City; Barney Radican, Foreman Plasterer, Carson City; J. Davis, Glazier, San Francisco.

On April 18, 1870, the first load of rock was delivered to the site, and on April 21, 1870, ground was broken.

The cornerstone was laid on June 9, 1870, with appropriate Masonic rites. A brass box, measuring 10" x 10" x 12" and lined with velvet, was deposited in the stone. The box contained "documents relating to the occasion, newspapers of the time, coins of the period, mine specimens," etc. The actual cornerstone is currently unknown.

Although finishing touches were still being applied in January 1871, the building was complete enough for the Legislature to meet in it. By mid-February, Governor Bradley moved in, and by May 1, 1871, the building was considered complete.

The glass panes in the windows and above the doors are of 26-ounce French crystal. Alaska marble was shipped in 20-ton blocks from Alaska to Richmond, California, where it was cut and polished, then shipped to Carson City, where it was used for the flooring on the first floor and for the wainscot.

The decorative frieze along the cornice of the first-floor halls was done by A.V. Higgins of Reno.

The building, as completed in 1871, was cruciform: a central rectangle 76' wide by 85' deep and two wings each 35' wide by 52' deep, with three-bay porches on the west and east fronts

The first floor contained central halls extending longitudinally and transversely. In the central portion there was a major office at each corner: Governor's, Treasurer's, Comptroller's and Attorney General's; the last was smaller than the others and the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction was placed alongside. In each wing there were two offices on each side of the hall.

At the second floor, each wing was filled by a legislative chamber, the Assembly occupying the north wing and the Senate the south wing. They were connected by a longitudinal hall which contained two stairs giving access from the first floor. On the east side there was a Supreme Court room, flanked by two offices to the south and four to the north. The west side was occupied by the State Library and its reading room, and two offices for the Secretary of State.

A cupola on an octagonal base, with eight windows and an octagonal dome, admitted light to the second-story hall. The cupola remains, but the opening admitting light to the hall is now closed.

Both the west (principal) and east elevations comprised two-story pedimented central portions five bays wide, to which was attached a one-story porch three bays wide, at the center. Each wing was two bays in length. The whole rested on a podium of medium height and was surmounted by the central cupola. Corners were marked by quoins. Windows were round-arched with rusticated architrave trim.

5. Alterations and additions: In 1875, only five years after the building was constructed, the Nevada State Legislature authorized \$25,000 to be expended on repairing and repainting the building and to erect an iron fence around the Plaza. Bids for the fence were called for, and the lowest, that submitted by Miss Hannah K. Clapp, for \$5,500 plus \$950 for freight charges, was approved. Miss Clapp, one of the pioneer educators of Nevada, was the founder of the Sierra Seminary, a private coeducational school in Carson City. She later joined the faculty of the University of Nevada, and apparently never ventured into the field of fence building again. The actual assembly of the fence, which was manufactured in Philadelphia by Robert Wood & Co., was done by Z.B. Ravenelle, a local contractor. The fence and gates still stand.

In 1891 a walkway was authorized to be constructed around the Capitol.

In 1899 the State Library, originally housed in quarters provided on the second floor of the Capitol, had expanded to take over the room formerly occupied by the clerk of the Supreme Court. Soon thereafter several thousand volumes were stored in the dome, and by 1904 their weight was causing serious structural problems. In 1905 the State Legislature authorized \$40,000 for the building of an annex to house the State Library. The construction of the annex necessitated the removal of the superstructure of the one story porch on the east facade of the original building. The annex currently (1972) houses the State Archives.

In 1913 the Legislature authorized \$60,000 for the construction of two wings to house the Senate and Assembly, and to provide more office space. The architect for this work was F.J. De Longchamps of Reno, whose design shows great sympathy for the original structure.* Bids were advertised on July 3, 1913, and opened on August 18, 1913. The low bidder was C.G. Sellman of Reno. His bid was for \$41,420 and was accepted. Work was to have been completed by July 1, 1914, but it actually continued beyond that date and eventually cost some \$60,000. Mr. De Longchamp's addition added new offices on the ground floor. On the second floor, the old Senate and Assembly chambers were removed, and their center sections made a continuation of the longitudinal hall of the old building. New offices and lavatories were installed in what had been the east and west thirds of these chambers, which occupy the entire second floor of the south and north wings respectively. On the halls of both floors, materials and trim of the original structure were imitated. Trim and decorative elements in the legislative chambers, however, were not copied from the original work, and are more strictly classic in feeling.

The State Archives has a wealth of documentation on the construction of these wings. Mr. De Longchamp's specifications (though not the plans), accounts, bids, and contracts are included. These are filed primarily in a container labeled "Capitol Commissioners, Board of, 1911-1939." The Archives also has similar material relating to minor repairs and changes made from 1864-1914.

*The drawings consisted of (1) Basement Plan, (2) First Floor Plan, (3) Second Floor Plan, (4) West Elevation, and (5) End Elevation and scale details. The architectural practice of Mr. De Longchamps, who was for many years in effect the State Architect, was taken over by Mr. Hewitt Wells, who has kept many of the former's drawings. The Nevada State Archivist is currently (1972) investigating the collection, which may include a set of the plans for the Capitol wings.

An elevator was installed in the building in 1948. In 1969 the dome was insulated, fireproofed and sheathed in fiberglass, the cost of this work being \$75,000. Also under the administration of Governor Paul Laxalt (1967-1971), the Governor's Office was decorated in a late nineteenth-century motif.

Later in the same administration, after the removal of the Assembly and the Senate to the new Legislative Building, the chambers formerly occupied by these bodies, as well as the former Supreme Court and the hallways, were refurbished. The cost for this work was \$96,000 and was under the supervision of Edward S. Parsons, architect, of Reno. New carpeting replaced the linoleum on the stairways at the same time. The firm of Solari and Sons did the papering the painting on this restoration. This restoration was finished in October 1970, although further work is planned, particularly in the two legislative chambers.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Inasmuch as this is the first building erected by the State of Nevada to serve as its capitol, and since it was opened only seven years after Nevada achieved statehood, the building has great historical interest and associations. Every Governor except the first (H.G. Blasdel) has had his office in the capitol. State Legislatures met in the building from 1871 until 1970. Names of all the officials, elected and appointed, who have served in the building, can be found in The Political History of Nevada (see Bibliography below).

From a preservationist standpoint, one of the more important pieces of legislation which emanated from the Capitol is "Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 22," passed at the 1959 Legislative Session. Quoted in full below, the Resolution came about as the result of a proposal made by the State Planning Board to demolish the Capitol and replace it with a new building on the same site. The legislators who used the building obviously felt much stronger about its significance than the planning board:

"Whereas, The state capitol in Carson City is of substantial cultural and historic value to the citizens of Carson City and the State of Nevada; and

Whereas, This historic building is a symbol of our glorious past and a constant reminder of the great men who served this state and nation; and

Whereas, The master plan of the state planning board provides for the demolition of the present state capitol and the construction of a modern replacement of the site; and

Whereas, It is better to preserve and repair than destroy, that which has meant so much to the history of this great state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of Nevada, the Senate concurring, that the state planning board is hereby directed to discontinue any plans, designs or work looking toward the demolition of the state capitol until such time as authorized by a like resolution."*

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, XLV, February 23, 1878, p. 421 has a woodcut of the building.

Both the Nevada Historical Society, in Reno, and the Nevada State Museum, housed in the Old Mint in Carson City, have extensive photograph files on the Capitol dating from as early as 1872. Both sources have both exterior and interior photographs. Several of these have been photocopied for the HABS records and accompany this report.

There is an early lithograph of the Capitol facing page 17 of Thompson and West's History of Nevada (see first bibliographic entry). There is an 1875 photographic view of the building facing page 973 of Davis, The History of Nevada (see bibliography). Lastly, there is a circa 1871 photograph of the building reproduced as the first illustration in Nevada, A Guide to the Silver State, American Guide Series (Portland, Oregon: Binford and Mort, 1940).

2. Bibliography:

Angel, Myron, ed. Reproduction of Thompson and West's History of Nevada, 1881. Berkeley: Howell-North, 1958.

*The matter was resolved with the construction of the new Legislative Building to the south of the Capitol in 1969.

Bishop's Directory of Nevada. Sacramento: Huntington, Hopkins and Co., 1879.

Davis, Samuel Post, ed. The History of Nevada. Reno: The Elms Publishing Co., 1913.

Gale, Frederick C. The History of the Capitol Building and Governor's Mansion, State of Nevada. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1968.

Koontz, John (Secretary of State of Nevada). Political History of Nevada (fifth edition). Carson City: State Printing Office, 1965.

McEachin, Malcolm (Secretary of State of Nevada). A Cornerstone for the Capitol. Carson City: State Printing Office, 1964.

Prepared by: S. Allen Chambers, Jr.
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
November 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: The first capitol built by the State of Nevada is of substantial masonry construction embellished with details adapted from classical prototypes.
2. Condition of fabric: The building, of monumental character and harmonious proportions, is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure is 236' in width and 85' in depth, not including porch.
2. Foundations: The foundations, approximately 5' high are constructed of four courses of rock-faced sandstone with a beveled water table.
3. Walls: Constructed of sandstone, the walls are 3'-0" thick at the first story, 2'-6" thick at the second story. The

courses are 1'-4" in height and the face was roughly dressed with a pick and a narrow chisel. Mortar joints have modern pointing. There are alternating quoins at the corners, chisel-dressed with drafted margins and beveled joints.

The stonework of the original portion and of the 1913 additions are well matched. Material for both came from the same quarry, on the site of the State Prison, East Fifth Street, Carson City. This stone is a dull yellow or light brown. Its condition appears excellent. There is virtually no deterioration or discoloration or evidence of cracking and uneven settlement.

4. Structural system: The load-bearing masonry walls and major partitions support the wooden floor framing of mostly sawn timbers and the roof trusses of hewn and sawn timbers with iron tension members. Purlins extend horizontally from truss to truss. There has been some modern strengthening: additional columns under the first floor and some splicing of key timbers in roof trusses.
5. Porches: A one-story porch with four wooden Tuscan columns having slender and fluted shafts and a wooden entablature, is centered on the west front. It is one bay in depth. Six granite steps lead up to each bay, between sandstone pedestals. The floor is concrete.

The east porch was similar originally; now only the platform remains. An open porch one bay wide by three bays in length connects with the Annex (built 1905). This has six fluted wooden, modified Tuscan columns with concrete bases supporting a narrow entablature and a second-story enclosed wooden passageway with three semi-circular arched windows on each side. Each window is divided by a Tuscan colonnette; each half being semi-circularly arched. There is a small roundel window in the lunette.

At the north and south entrances there are granite steps and a stoop.

6. Chimneys: None presently visible
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: There are similar doorways at the center of all four sides. Each is recessed behind a semi-circular arched masonry opening with rusticated architrave trim. The reveal is paneled in wood with a

flat paneled soffit. The interior wooden wall of this recess has an arched opening, the upper half of which is glazed with rectangular panes. Above the transom is a pediment supported on thin colonnettes with modified Corinthian capitals. In the tympanum of this pediment there is an ornamental relief. The doors are double, perhaps dating from 1913. Each has a single large beveled plate glass light above a moulded panel. Each is hung on three large brass or bronze butt hinges. The floor of the entrance reveal is paved with marble similar to the interior hall. The threshold is brass or bronze.

- b. Windows: Typically the windows are in a semi-circular arched masonry opening with rusticated architrave trim with interior splayed reveals. The sills are wide and are supported on two sandstone brackets. The opening contains wooden tracery, the central mullion being a fluted colonnette with a capital of inverted bell shape. There are two round-arched divisions and a circular division at the top. Sash are double hung: one light over one light at the first story, and are taller at the second story, with two tiers of lights over one light.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape: The roof is gabled and is covered with material resembling composition shingles.
- b. Cornice: There is a wooden cornice, generally conforming to a Roman Corinthian entablature. The modillions are somewhat blocky, however, and the frieze contains long horizontal panels. The gables are pedimented. A wooden balustrade extends along the edge of the roof, except at the pediments.
- c. Cupola: On the ridge of the central pavilion there is a wooden octagonal cupola, domed with sheet metal. There is an arched opening on each side, divided by a central mullion with a Corinthian colonnette, with a large paneled key block. At each side of the opening there is a paneled pilaster strip with brackets at the top and scrolled buttress at the side.

Above a wooden cornice containing a dentil course, there are two "steps" and then the dome, which has a double

curved profile (an inverted cyma-recta).

At the base of the cupola there is a plain octagonal drum.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Plan: First floor - Longitudinal and transverse halls give access to offices at each side. Second floor: Legislative halls, now given over to displays, occupy the north and south ends; between them a longitudinal hall gives access to offices at both sides.
2. Stairways: Symmetrical similar stairs are located in the longitudinal hall. Each is a straight flight, seventeen risers to a landing and sixteen more risers to the second floor. There is a large ornamental wooden octagonal newel with a moulded handrail and two turned balusters per tread. The openstring has ornamental step ends. There is a wooden dado with moulded panels, base and rail up the run.
3. Finish: First floor, general- The first-story halls are floored with gray figured Alaskan marble. In the halls there is a wainscot of gray figured Alaskan marble, the pieces being matched. Door-ways have a plain architrave trim; typically, there is a glazed transom, a door with one large glazed panel and a moulded panel below. The reveals of the openings are paneled in wood. In the offices there is heavy moulded architrave trim around doorways; doors have six panels. In the office now occupied by the Comptroller (originally the Treasurer's Office), much of the trim appears to be original; some newer partitions in this area have matching trim.

A painted frieze extends around the halls; garlands hung from upright miner's picks are supplemented by symbols and words representing the natural resources of the State. There are narrower ornamental bands at the top and bottom of the frieze. Brown, yellow and green predominate.

Above the end of each stair there is a "diaphragm" arch springing from moulded corbels.

Door butt hinges are ornamented with scrolls.

Governor's Office: This office is in its original location.

It is divided by a wide wooden archway of elliptical form, with architrave, impost and archivolt. A composition wainscot, above a wide moulded wooden base, is enriched by a small-scale geometrical pattern. There is a wide plaster moulded cornice; in one half of the room there is an egg-and-dart moulding below it. Reveals of doorways are paneled in wood. An ornamental plaster centerpiece in the ceiling of the larger area is a replacement, said to be a replica of the original. An electric fan suspended from the ceiling was installed in recent years; it is an early twentieth-century piece brought from Goldfield, Nevada.

In the southeast corner of the office is the original built-in iron safe. The door, which is four-paneled on the side facing the room, swings on pivots. It retains its original combination lock, to which a modern lock has been added.

This room contains two old steam radiators. They are probably not original, however, because it is thought that the room was originally heated by stoves.

Hall, second floor: The stair railings continue around both stair wells, and the paneled wooden dado along the wall at one side of the stairs continues around this hall. There is a moulded plaster cornice with an enriched ovolo bed moulding, and a narrow frieze; this is painted brown and yellow.

Door trim consists of a wide moulded architrave and the reveals are paneled. Doors have six raised panels, with panel moulding. Above them there is a moulded transom bar and glazed transom.

On the ceiling there are two plaster centerpieces. Walls and ceiling are plaster, painted. Five electric chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling; although these are modern they were made following old drawings. The second and the fourth chandeliers hang from ornamental medallions, while the first, third, and fifth do not; the first and fifth are in the newer portion of the building. These mark the center of the old legislative chambers.

Supreme Court Room: This room is now used for other purposes: meetings, etc. Its corners are rounded. There is a wide plaster frieze, in which bands of enriched mouldings (egg-and-dart, guilloche, leaf-and-tongue) alternate with plain fascias. Above the cornice there is a small

cove. In the ceiling there is an ornamental centerpiece.

Trim in this room is generally similar to that in the hall but the wainscot is not paneled. Two semicircular-arched windows on the east wall have moulded plaster hoodmoulds carried on foliated corbels; this may be typical of the original part of the building. On the south wall there is an oak wall-piece three bays wide; the bays are marked by Ionic pilasters and columns, the central one crowned by a pediment. The judge's bench is not original to this building, having been obtained from the old Washoe County Courthouse.

Offices, second floor: These rooms are generally simple; they have had some partitions inserted and some mezzanine storage areas built. There is a moulded base on a high plinth, and a narrow moulded cornice.

Legislative Chambers: These rooms, constructed in 1913, are similar. At each corner there are coupled fluted Roman Corinthian pilasters. Above the entablature there is a large cove. In the ceiling there is a large square panel (apparently once a skylight) with its border featuring a guilloche and smaller enriched mouldings.

Above the entrance vestibule to each chamber there is a shallow gallery carried on four Tuscan columns. There is a balustrade above the entablature of this order. Opposite the entrance, on the end wall, there is a Speaker's rostrum, framed by coupled Corinthian pilasters. The rostrum is varnished oak: panels between small Ionic pilasters.

There are three arched windows on the west wall, and one on each side of the Speaker's rostrum. They have enriched hoodmoulds with consoles and key blocks in the form of consoles. The pedestal of the Corinthian order forms the wainscoting of these chambers.

4. Finish, wood - Original woodwork is quite dark brown, painted to imitate wood graining. That in the 1913 additions matches it. In the offices, some of this wood trim has now been repainted, in light colors.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The capitol is located at the center of a square "plaza," which is two blocks long on each side. The main facade faces west to Carson Street. On the east axis there is a semi-detached Annex.

At the northeast corner of the plaza there is a modern state office building. The area is planted with trees, and traversed by axial and diagonal walks.

1. Fence: An iron fence surrounds the capitol plaza, with openings at the entrance to walks; no gates remain. Pedestals are cast, rails are rolled, and pickets are rolled with cast "spear points" and junction pieces. The base is one course of large sandstone blocks. The pedestals bear the name of the makers: Robert Wood & Co., Philadelphia.
2. Outbuildings: The Annex- this was built in 1905 as the State Library. It now houses the State Archives.

The Annex is basically octagonal, two stories above a high basement, with a projecting vestibule wing on the west side. The over-all dimensions are about 58' in diameter, and 68' long, including the vestibule.

Foundations are high (seven courses of stone), with a rock-faced beveled water table.

Walls are rock-faced sandstone ashlar, the only drafted edges being at corners of the building, and at openings. The corners of the octagonal part of the building are marked by two rock-faced pilasters having sheet-metal, Doric capitals.

The entrance doorway, centered on the west side, is rectangular, the head consisting of a flat arch. There are double doors with a transom. A similar entrance on the east front is approached by thirteen granite steps between cheek walls.

On each side of the basement there is a single rectangular window: flat arched. At the first story there are three windows on each side which are closely spaced. The central one is larger than the others. They have a transom and flat arches. At the second story each side contains a group of three windows, of which the central one is semi-circular arched. The smaller windows flanking it are flat arched, their heads being at the spring line of the central opening. The central opening is divided by wooden tracery into two windows and a circular light is in the tympanum.

The cornice is a three-part entablature of sheet metal, painted white.

The roof is pyramidal in shape, of low pitch, and carries a large cupola and is covered with sheet metal. On each of

the eight sides of the cupola there are two bays of semi-circular-arched windows framed by Corinthian pilasters. Above the entablature there is an octagonal dome having a semicircular-gabled dormer with a round window at each side. Above the dome, on a low pedestal, there is an open octagonal lantern with stubby Corinthianesque square columns, an entablature, and a small octagonal dome with a finial.

Above the vestibule wing there is a pair of octagonal domes of pointed section, each carrying an open lantern, comparable to the main one but simpler in detail.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
Supervisory Architect
National Park Service

PART III. Project Information

These records are part of the documentation made during the latter half of 1972 and the summer of 1973 in a project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Nevada State Park System to record structures in Carson City and nearby areas.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Eric R. Cronkhite, Administrator, Nevada State Park System, and Mrs. Marshall Humphreys of the Nevada Landmarks Society assisted the HABS recorders in Nevada. Professor Harley J. McKee, Supervisory Architect, National Park Service, selected the subjects and provided architectural data for the sixteen Carson City structures which were recorded. Historical documentation for these buildings was prepared by S. Allen Chambers, Jr., Architectural Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor for the 1973 Nevada Summer Team, which produced the measured drawings, was Robert L. Hartwig of Harvard University. Student assistant architects were John T. M. Creery (University of Utah), Robert P. Mizell (University of Florida), and Jack W. Schafer (University of Cincinnati). Photographs were made by Aaron A. Gallup of Sacramento, California.